

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 12-14, 17 and 18, cancel claim 16, and add new claims 21-23. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A multiple telescopic tube with at least two longitudinally extending outer tubes (1) arranged parallel to each other and at least two longitudinally extending inner tubes (2) ~~arranged parallel to the outer tubes (1), the inner tubes being~~ displaceable relative to the outer tubes (1) in the longitudinal direction (Z), and

having a clamping device (3), which comprises ~~[[a]]~~ at least one clamping engagement element (5) which ~~may be brought~~ is biased into engagement with the outer surfaces of the inner tubes (2) in response to loading of the multiple telescopic tube in a longitudinal clamping direction to prevent , whereby,

~~on loading of the multiple telescopic tube in a longitudinal clamping direction, the clamping device (3) prevents~~ displacement of the inner tubes (2) relative to the outer tubes (1) in this longitudinal clamping direction, whereas

the displaceability of the inner tubes (2) in a longitudinal direction opposite that of the longitudinal clamping direction ~~the opposing longitudinal direction~~ is maintained.

2. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein the loading in the longitudinal clamping direction correspond to a compression loading of the multiple telescopic tube.

3. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal clamping direction corresponds to a tensional loading of the multiple telescopic tube.

4. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the inner tube (2) is arranged in one of the outer tubes (1).

5. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein the clamping device (3) has an engagement actuation element (7) , which is firmly linked to the outer tubes (2) and is movable relative to the at least one clamping engagement element (5).

6. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 5, wherein on loading the multiple telescopic tube in the longitudinal clamping direction, the engagement actuation element (7) comes into engagement with the at least one clamping engagement element (5).

7. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 5, wherein the relative movement between the ~~engagement elements (5, 7)~~ engagement actuation element (7) and

the at least one clamping engagement element (5) brings about a movement of the at least one clamping engagement element (5) in the direction of the outer surfaces of the inner tubes (2) to bias the at least one clamping engagement element (5) linearly and laterally outward into frictional engagement with the outer surfaces of the inner tubes (2).

8. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1, wherein the clamping device (3) also has a release device (8) for releasing the engagement between the clamping engagement element (5) and the exterior surfaces of the inner tubes (2).

9. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 8, wherein the release device (8) is a slider (8) movable in the longitudinal direction of the multiple telescopic tube.

10. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 8, wherein ~~the clamping engagement element (5)~~ release device (8) is movable relative to the engagement actuation element (7) ~~of the release device (8)~~.

11. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 8, wherein the release device (8) is pretensioned by an elastic element (12) in a direction opposed to the release.

12. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 5, wherein the engagement actuation element (7) ~~is designed to be~~ possesses a planar inclined surface

complementary to and in sliding contact with a corresponding planar inclined surface of the at least one clamping engagement element (5).

13. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 12, wherein the engagement actuation element (7) is a wedge shaped member disposed between two clamping engagement elements (5) ~~engagement elements (5, 7) are in wedge-formed engagement with each other.~~

14. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein the at least one clamping engagement element (5) comprises at least two members, between which the engagement actuation element (7) is situated.

15. (Original) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 14, wherein the number of members of the clamping engagement element (5) is equal to the number of inner tubes (2).

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein the clamping device (3) has a housing (4) in which the ~~engagement elements (5, 7)~~ at least one clamping engagement element (5) and the engagement actuation element (7) are accommodated.

18. (Currently amended) The multiple telescopic tube according to claim 17, wherein the housing (4) is firmly linked to the outer tubes (1) and to the engagement actuation element (7).

19. (Original) A stand with at least one multiple telescopic tube according to claim 1 as a stand leg.

20. (Original) The stand according to claim 19, wherein it is a camera stand.

21. (New) A multiple telescopic tube assembly comprising:

- a) at least two longitudinally extending outer tubes (1) arranged parallel to each other;
- b) at least two longitudinally extending inner tubes (2) which are longitudinally moveable with respect to the outer tubes;
- c) a clamping device (3) affixed to the outer tubes and through which the inner tubes (2) are slidably disposed, the clamping device (3) including at least two jaws (5) laterally biased by a wedge member (7) in opposite linear directions into frictional engagement with the inner tubes (2) in response to loading of the telescopic tube assembly in a longitudinal clamping direction to prevent sliding movement of the inner tubes (2) relative to the clamping device (3) in the longitudinal clamping direction, whereas the slidability of the inner tubes (2) in a longitudinal direction opposite that of the longitudinal clamping direction is maintained.

22. (New) The assembly of claim 21 wherein the loading is compressive loading and the inner tubes (2) are prevented from sliding towards the outer tubes (1) but remain slidable away from the outer tubes (1).

23. (New) The assembly of claim 21 wherein the loading is tensile loading and the inner tubes (2) are prevented from sliding away from the outer tubes (1) but remain slidable towards from the outer tubes (1).